

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 ARA-06

EUR-12 /097 W

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P 291200Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6745

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6291

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PINT, SG

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE REQUEST FOR US MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF A DAKAR 6169, B STATE 240146

1. SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL, PRESIDENT SENGHOR DID NOT RULE OUT GOS INTEREST IN FMS LOAN PROGRAM BUT MADE CLEAR THAT HE NEEDS SOME GRANT ASSISTANCE. I REQUEST THAT DEPT RE-EXAMINE OUR RESPONSE TO GOS IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MY CALL SEPT 28 PRESIDENT SENGHOR MADE HIS REQUEST FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS EXPECTED. WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT WHAT GOS HAS IN MIND IS GRANT MAP AID, HE DID NOT RULE OUT INTEREST IN LOAN PROGRAM, PROVIDED HIS NATIONAL BUDGET COULD ACCOMMODATE IT. HE STRESSED DEARTH OF SENEGALESE FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL THREATS FROM NEIGHBORS ARMED AND TRANINED BY SOVIETS AND/OR CUBANS AND GAVE ME COPY OF GOS SECRET NOTE FROM MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES TO HIM ON SUBJECT OF THESE THREATS. (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.)

3. AS INSTRUCTED I HELD OUT NO HOPE FOR GRANT MAP AID. PRESIDENT SAID FRANCE WAS SENDING MINISTER OF COOPERATION
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GALLEY FOR THE SENGHOR 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS, OCTOBER 2-8 AND HE WOULD HIT FRENCH AGAIN FOR ASSISTANTCE AT THAT

TIME. FRENCH HAD BEEN RETICENT SO FAR BECAUSE OF SPATE OF REQUESTS GISCARD RECEIVED FROM FORMER COLONIES IN WAKE ANGOLAN DEBACLE. SENGHOR WOULD SEE WHAT FRENCH COULD PROVIDE. MEANWHILE, HE REQUESTED THAT I OUTLINE FOR PRIME MINISTER TERMS OF POSSIBLE LOAN PROGRAM WHICH GOS EVENTUALLY MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER.

4. COMMENT: WHILE I APPRECIATE CURRENT CONSTRAINTS WHICH HAVE LED DEPT TO PROPOSE FMS GUARANTEED OAN AS POSSIBLE RESPONSE, I HAD HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME FORWARD WITH AT LEAST SOME GRANT COMPONENT IN RESPONSE TO GOS IREQUEST. IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR WAS DISAPPOINTED. HE HAS BEEN STEADFAST OPPONENT OF SOVIET/CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND SUPPORTER OF US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. AT SAME TIMEN, SENGHOR IS AWARE THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED NEIGHBORS. SENGHOR AND GOS HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FO US ASSISTANCE TO SAHELIAN RELIEF OEFFORT. WE HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS FROM VARIOUS GOS MINISTERS THAT WE PROVIDE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT SENGHOR PERSONALLY HAS ASKED US FOR SIGNIFICANT ASSISTANCE. IF HE CAN GET GRANT AID, OBVIOUSLY THAT WOULD BE HIS PREFERENCE, SINCE HE IS MINDFUL OF SEVERE GOS BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS. I EXPECT HIM TO MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT WITH FRENCH IN THIS RESPECT. FOR OUR PART, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IF SITUATION WOULD PERMIT AT LEAST SOME GRANT MAP ASSISTANCE, THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE THAN LOAN OPTION. IN MEANTIME, UNLESS DEPT OBJECT, I PLAN TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER, WHO RAISED MATTER WITH ME INITIALLY, TO MAKE CERTAIN HE IS CLEAR ON NATURE OF OUR RESPONSE. I WOULD FOLLOW GUIDANCE OF STATE 240146.

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